

Ottonian Art

Date/Time	Wednesdays 24 Jan–28 Feb 2024 11am–1pm NB: no class on 14 February 2024	Price	£110
Venue	Lettsom House, 11 Chandos Street, London W1G 9EB	Lecturer	Dr Sally Dormer

Otto, King of the Saxons, was crowned Emperor of the Romans in February 962, in Old St Peter's, Rome, by Pope John XII, thereby reviving the lapsed imperial title of the Frankish Carolingian emperors. Otto I (d. 973), his son, Otto II (d. 983), grandson, Otto III (d. 1002) and great-nephew Henry II (d. 1024), collectively known as the Ottonians, alongside influential ecclesiastics like Gero, Archbishop of Cologne (d. 976), Matilda, Abbess of Essen (d. 1011), and Bernward, Archbishop of Hildesheim (d. 1022), manipulated the visual arts to communicate and consolidate their power, commissioning illuminated manuscripts, goldsmiths' work, enamels, cast bronzes and ivory carvings characterised by monumental forms laced with intense spirituality. Grand churches, like the abbey at Gernrode and St Michael's, Hildesheim presaged the emergence of the mid-eleventh century Romanesque architectural style. These spectacular, relatively unknown, late tenth- and early eleventh-century monuments and artefacts will provide the focus of this five-week course.

Week 1 Historical introduction

Ottonian church architecture

Week 2 Imperial books and their luxury covers

Week 3 Goldsmiths' work

Week 4 Ivory carving

Week 5 Ecclesiastical patrons

Dr Sally Dormer is a specialist medieval art historian, with an MA in Medieval Art History and PhD on Medieval illuminated manuscripts from The Courtauld, London University. Sally founded the ongoing V&A Late Medieval Europe and Early Renaissance Year Course 1250-1500 in 1993, and in 2009 devised the V&A Early Medieval Year Course 300-800, for which she is now Course Director. She has lectured for Gresham College and The Arts Society. She was, until recently, Dean of *European Studies*, a study abroad semester, for two universities in Tennessee, USA.